

DATE: 24 August 1973

TO: Mr. Walsh

FROM: Herb Jenne

SUBJECT: Finished Intelligence Production
Management

REMARKS:

Paul:

I have scouted around on this and find that:

- the proposal stems from PFIAB interest (Baker) in the matter. These comments will be the basis for further IC discussion with PFIAB.
- the DIA response is the most enthusiastic-- it loves things mechanical.
- State says the concept is good but that there are some questions that need to be thrashed out.
- our production components think it's a no-good idea.

The proposed response was drafted with one eye on the politics of the situation. I tried to be unenthusiastic without being "negative." or "uncooperative."

Attached is a copy of the ~~DDI~~ ^{OSI} response.

ACTION

CONFIDENTIAL

24 AUG 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Associate Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT: Finished Intelligence Production Management

REFERENCE: Memo from the Deputy to the DCI for the Intelligence Community, dated 31 July 1973

1. The proposed centralized intelligence production file appears reasonable so long as it serves as a repository of information for use by those directly engaged in intelligence analysis and production or the management thereof. Our major concern is that the file's use will not be restricted to that purpose but that others, such as the IC Staff, will attempt to use it as a means of managing the programs of the producing agencies, eliminating "undesirable" duplication and, more importantly, trying to establish the subject areas of coverage by the respective agencies.

2. While the elimination of undesirable duplication is one of those sacred guiding principles we live by, we doubt that the information in the central registry will be sufficiently detailed, timely and explicit for this purpose. Certainly, to make it so will require an appreciable effort on the part of the producers and the cost of this effort should be deducted from the presumed benefits. Judging from TAB A of the reference, the case for undesirable duplication is not very compelling since the appropriateness of only 30 out of 832 publications was considered "questionable".

3. The problem with eliminating undesirable duplication is that it is so hard to define what is meant. Different agencies work under different terms of reference in response to different needs of different policy makers. Only a small proportion of intelligence studies is the general, all-purpose variety that substantially meets the needs of more than one Agency. For this reason the file would in our view have

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limited utility -- recognizing of course that even a little might be worthwhile. Whether the benefit would be significantly offset by the cost of maintaining the system (and this should not be underestimated based on our experience) is something that should be considered carefully. A quick guess is that coordination would not be significantly enhanced over that now achieved through direct contacts between producing organizations, through USIB committees, through exchange of work programs and other mechanisms now operating.



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Acting Director
Scientific Intelligence

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Subject Document

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